



More than Policy: Queer Experiences of Non-inclusive Sexual-health Education

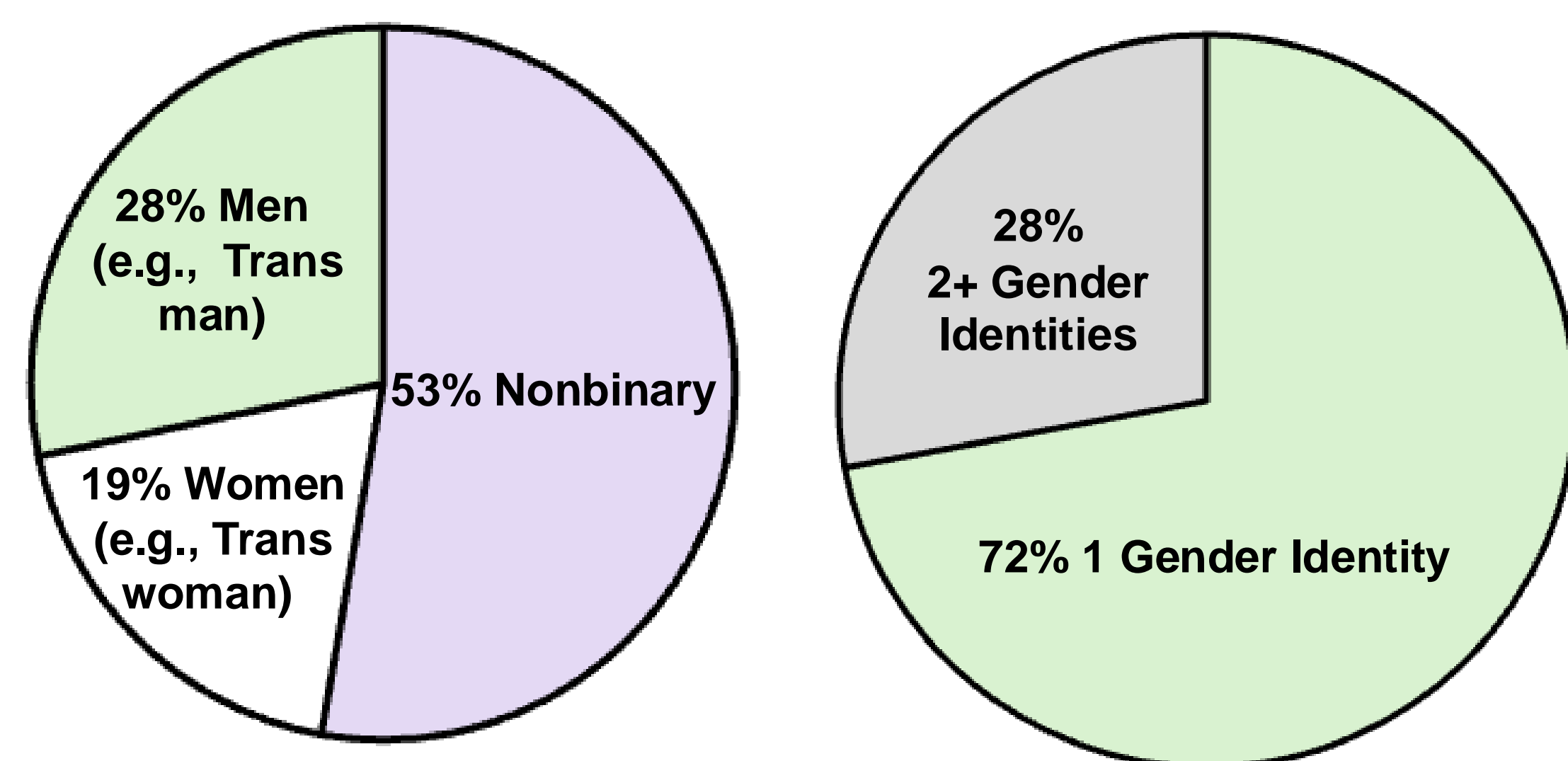
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Introduction

- Adolescence is a critical time for identity exploration (Branje et al., 2021)
- Non-inclusive sexual-health education (SHed):
 - Impedes identity development for gender-minoritized adolescents (Rise, 2022)
 - Enshrines the gender binary (Garg et al., 2021)
 - Often informed by misinformation (Garg et al., 2021)
- Restrictive education practices due to legislation:
 - Can be explicitly discriminatory, marginalizing, and/or stigmatizing
 - Result in poor mental health outcomes for TNG (i.e., transgender, nonbinary, gender diverse) youth (Tordoff et al. 2021)

Participants

- $N = 401$ TNG adults/emerging adults
- Age: 18-28 years $M(SD) = 23.61(2.58)$



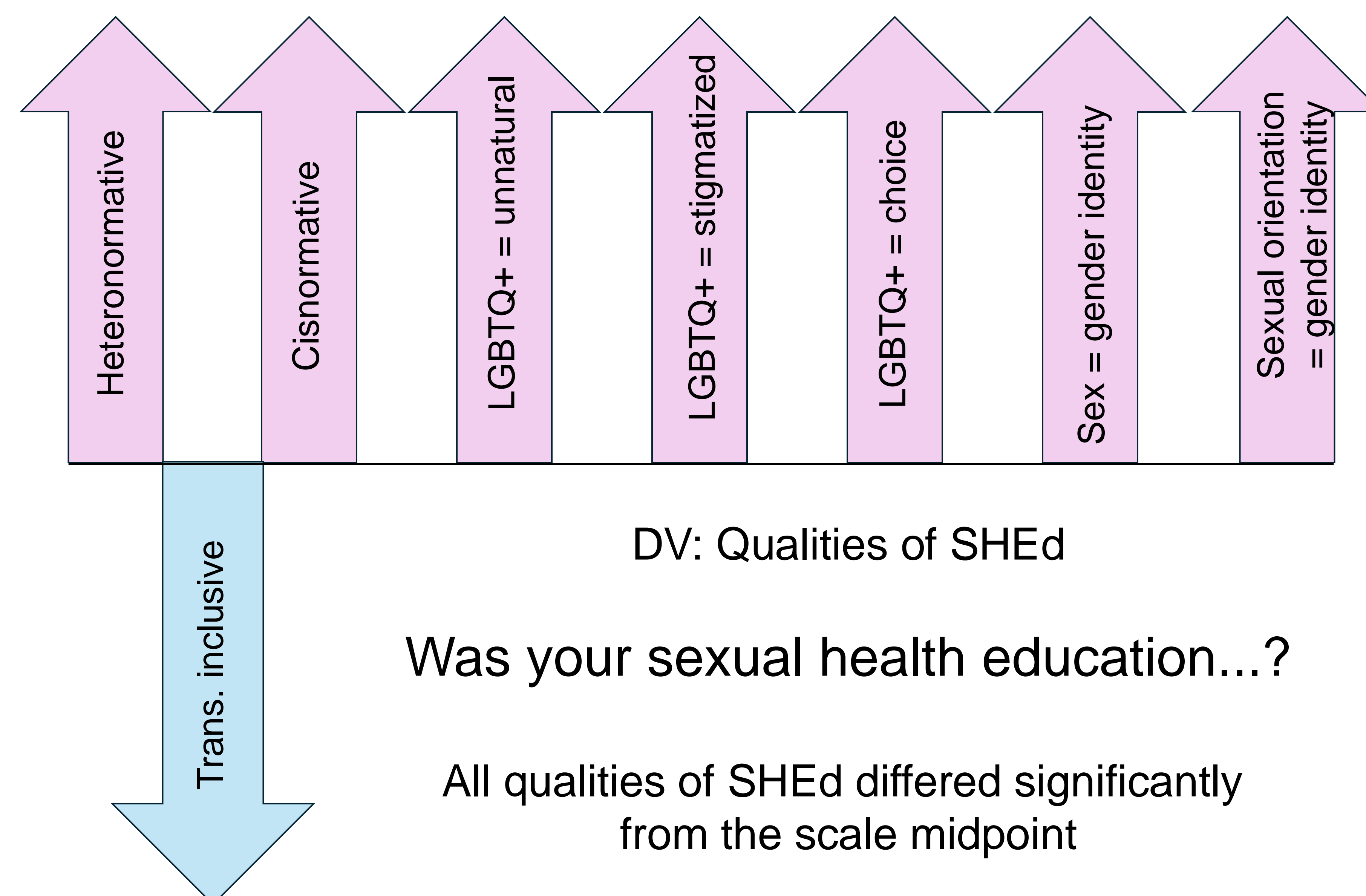
Methods

- IV: State Grouping (inclusive/good, neutral, misinformed/bad)
 - Rating of TNG policy (e.g., number of anti-TNG policies introduced and/or passed)
 - State sexual-health education mandates (e.g., required, abstinence only, comprehensive)

7 = strongly agree

scale midpoint

1 = strongly disagree



Results

Variables	Inclusive/ Good M(SD)	Neutral M(SD)	Misinformed/ Bad M(SD)	Significant differences
Heteronormative	6.07 (1.35)	6.30 (1.09)	6.46 (0.94)	Bad > Good**
Trans inclusive	1.99 (1.46)	1.75 (1.27)	1.73 (1.50)	ns
Cisnormative	6.41 (1.13)	6.43 (1.15)	6.55 (0.87)	ns
LGBTQ+ = unnatural/unaccepting	3.04 (1.62)	3.35 (1.90)	3.96 (1.78)	Bad > Good*** Bad > Neutral**
LGBTQ+ = stigma	3.08 (1.83)	3.39 (2.04)	3.62 (1.92)	ns
LGBTQ+ = choice	3.21 (1.73)	3.67 (2.04)	4.02 (2.05)	Bad > Good***
Sex = Gender Identity	5.42 (1.81)	5.80 (1.63)	5.79 (1.71)	ns
Gender Identity = Sexual Orientation	4.17 (1.90)	4.51 (1.98)	4.64 (1.73)	ns

Note. ns = nonsignificant; * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$.

Discussion

- SHed is lacking regardless of state policy grouping:
 - All 8 negative qualities emerge significantly, even in good states
 - Highly cisnormative and heteronormative, more so in bad states
 - Likely to conflate biological sex with gender identity across the board
- States in misinformed/bad policy grouping
 - More likely to teach LGBTQ+ identities as unnatural, unacceptable, and as a choice
- Clear need to improve inclusive SHed **in all states**, not just those with anti-TNG policies
- Future directions
 - What do these findings mean for youth in "good" v. "bad" states?
 - How do these state groupings and findings relate to:
 - Experiences of discrimination
 - Measures of wellbeing
 - Measures of belonging

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